(iv) A Scheme for Distribution of Subsidized Imported Edible Oils through the State Governments/UTs has been introduced.

Empowering consumers against sub-standard goods

3445. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of empowering consumers against sub-standard goods, by enactment of laws which would include critical product liability clause, making erring manufacturers and suppliers liable to pay punitive damages;

(b) if so, whether the rules under the Food Safety Act also bring in standards for packaged food items, etc.; and

(c) whether Food Regulatory Authority would be empowered adequately to immediately take care of aggrieved consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) As informed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 empowers the consumers to lift the samples for getting it analysed as well as to launch the prosecution against offenders in the court of law if the sample is found adulterated. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India being established under the said Act is empowered to lay down standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import as well as labelling provisions. The Act also provides for payment of compensation to the consumers in case of injury or death of the consumer caused due to consumption of food.

Reduction in allocation of foodgrains to Kerala

2346. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the quantity of foodgrains allcoated to Kerala for distribution through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has objected to such a move; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution